committee suggested for continuation of 100% financial assistance, setting up more KVK, timely sanction of adequate funds and its monitoring, decentralized disbursement of funds by Zonal Coordinators, creation of separate budget head for KVK in Department of Agricultural Research and Education, and review of accounting procedures. Necessary measures were taken to comply with these suggestions.

(c) and (d) In order to make the Kendras a medium for providing latest scientific information in agriculture, following steps have been taken:

— Provision of a multi-disciplinary team of subject matter specialists for each KVK.

— Reorganizing its activities by including (i) on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of technology in various farming situation, (ii) front-line demonstration to establish the production potentials of newly released agricultural technologies on farmers' plots; (iii) skill training of farmers to update their knowledge in modern agricultural technologies, and (iv) in-service training of extension functionaries to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development.

— Constituting a Scientific Advisory Committee for each KVK including the representatives of farmers and farm women, research institutions, district development departments, lead bank and media to review its activities and provide necessary guidance.

Mobile Offices of Banks in Rural Areas

918. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to provide credit and storage facilities to farmers at their door-steps, Government have been considering to take steps to ensure that Rural and Co-operative Banks provide mobile offices which may, while giving loans, also collect stores of

agricultural produce from farmers to keep it as security for the loan funds extended to farmers; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken to promote such mobile rural banks for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) No, Sir. There has been no such proposal at present, under consideration of the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance to Co-operatives of Weaker Sections in H.P. and Gujarat

919. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:
SHRI AHMED PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Centrally sponsored scheme of assistance to co-operatives of weaker sections, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, especially in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) what are the criteria for allocating funds under each scheme in those States;

(c) what are the details of funds released and utilized during the last five years; and

(d) the present status of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir, this Department was implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme for assistance to weaker section cooperative societies in the country, including Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat as well upto 1999-2000.

From October 2000, the scheme has been transferred to Macro Management Mode.

Under the present system this Deptt. provides financial